(d) The Government has constituted a Group of Ministers for review of the Fertilizer Policy including examination on nutrient based subsidy policy towards *inter alia* higher agricultural productivity and production for food security.

**Production of apples**

3270. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any improvement in the production of apples in the country due to Government/private efforts to bring more areas under apple cultivation, particularly in Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the actual production of apples during the last three years, area-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to further augment the production of apples in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The available data on production of apples for the period from 2005-06 to 2007-08 and that for the year 2008-09 indicates that there has been consistent increase in overall production of apples except during 2006-07. The details are given in the Statement *(See* below).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, The Government of India has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme *i.e.* Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh (TMNE) to harness the potential of horticulture of the region by increasing production and productivity of horticultural crops including apples. In order to augment the production of apples in the country, assistance is being provided for area expansion, establishment of nurseries for raising quality planting material, protected cultivation, rejuvenation of senile orchards, integrated nutrient and water management, integrated pest management, post harvest management, processing & marketing including HRD under this scheme.

***Statement***

*Details of production of Apples during last three years*

A - Area (000' ha)

P - Production (000' MT)

| State/UTs | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | | 2008-09 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | A | P | A | P | A | P | A | P |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 9.1 | 9.6 | 9.8 | 9.8 | 10.8 | 9.8 | 10.8 | 9.8 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 88.6 | 540.4 | 91.8 | 268.4 | 94.5 | 592.6 | 94.72 | 510.16 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 100.1 | 1151.7 | 119.4 | 1222.2 | 126.4 | 1268.5 | 133.1 | 1332.8 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nagaland | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.015 | 0.04 | 0.05 | 0.04 | 0.05 |
| Uttaranchal | 28.8 | 112.3 | 30.6 | 123.3 | 32.2 | 130.5 | 32.67 | 132.32 |
| TOTAL | 226.64 | 1814.04 | 251.64 | 1623.72 | 263.94 | 2001.45 | 271.3 | 1985.1 |

**Shift from producing foodgrains to cash crops**

3271. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) to which extent the farmers have switched over from producing foodgrains to producing cash crops during the last five years;

(b) the names of the States where this shifting has been predominant;

(c) the facilities Government is going to extend to the foodgrains growers to maintain the quantity of land under this crop cultivation; and

(d) by when the trend will be reversed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) There is no major area shift from foodgrains to cash crops during last five year. Infact, area under foodgrains has increased from 120,01 million hectares in 2004-05 to 123.22 million hectares in 2008-09 as per 4th advance estimates released by Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture.

In order to enhance the production and productivity of foodgrains, Government of India has been implementing various Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) under Macro Management mode of Agriculture and Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM).

Under these schemes States have been provided assistance for production & distribution of quality seed, improvement of soil health through lime/Gypsum/micro nutrients application, improved package of practices, field demonstrations and farmer training through farmers' field school (FFS) etc.

**Establishment of soil testing laboratories**

3272. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to establish soil testing laboratories and mobile soil testing laboratories during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the locations identified, so far;

(c) the details of the funds allocated and the expenditure so far incurred in establishing such laboratories in these States; and

(d) the details of the steps taken to achieve the targets of Eleventh Plan period fixed in this regard?